

## **PREFACE 9**

Timeline of Islamic History 10

## **I INTRODUCTION 17**

## **2 MUHAMMAD 23**

Arabia before Islam 23

The Life of Muhammad: the Traditional Muslim Narrative 29

Sources for the Life of Muhammad 37

Non-Muslim Sources for the Life of Muhammad 41

Reflections on Muhammad's Life and Mission as Presented  
in the Muslim Tradition 42

Muslim and Non-Muslim Views of Muhammad 47

Muslim Reactions to Criticism of Muhammad 49

Prejudices and Stereotypes 52

Evaluating Muhammad 56

## **3 THE QUR'AN 58**

The Nature and Structure of the Qur'an 59

The Language of the Qur'an 62

Major Themes of the Qur'an 65

Prophets and Prophecy 68

Reciting and Reading the Qur'an 76

History of the Text 78

Translations of the Qur'an 81

The Qur'an Today 83

"An Inimitable Symphony" 86

## **4 FAITH** 89

The First Pillar of Islam—the Profession of Faith (*Shahada*) 89

The Second Pillar of Islam—Prayer (*Salat*) 92

The Third Pillar of Islam—Almsgiving (*Zakat*) 99

The Fourth Pillar of Islam—Fasting (*Sawm*) 101

The Fifth Pillar of Islam—Pilgrimage (*Hajj*) 105

## **5 LAW** 114

The Evolution of Law in the Early Islamic World 115

Classical Sunni Muslim Jurisprudence (*Fiqh*),  
8th to 18th Century 117

The Impact of European Colonialism: Modernizing Islamic Law,  
18th to 20th Century 128

Muslim Law Today 131

The Future 136

## **6 DIVERSITY** 138

Diversity in Context 139

The Emergence of Sunni Islam 142

The Emergence of Shi'ism—the Role of 'Ali 145

The Imamate of Hasan 148

The Imamate of Husayn 149

Divisions amongst the Shi'ites 150

Shi'ite Law 162

The Islamic Republic of Iran—Twelver Shi'ism as a Modern  
State Ideology 165

Shi'ites Today 167

## **7 THOUGHT** 169

Islamic Theology 170

Islamic Philosophy 177

Political Thought 180

The Sunni Caliphate 180

Modern Trends in Islamic Thought 183

## **8 SUFISM** 189

The Beginnings of Asceticism and Mysticism in Islam 190

The Development of Medieval Sufism 194

Some Key Sufi Concepts and Symbols 200

The Sufi Brotherhoods (Tariqas) 206

Sufism Outside the Middle East 213

## **9 JIHAD** 219

Greater and Lesser Jihad 219

Jihad in the Canonical Sources 221

Jihad in Islamic Law 223

The Twelver Shi'ite View of Jihad 226

Jihad in Practice in Pre-Modern Times 228

Jihad since the Nineteenth Century 237

Modern Jihad 242

## **10 WOMEN** 247

Muslim Women and the West 247

The Qur'an on Women 249

Women in Islamic Law 253

Mary and Fatima—Two Especially Venerated Women 255

Muslim Women in Pre-Modern Times 256

Muslim Women in the Early Modern Era 258

Prominent Muslim Women Today 261

Women in Contemporary Society 265

## **II TOMORROW** 274

The Many Faces of Islam 275

Religion and Politics 278

Terrorism and Violence 280

Social Change 281

Muslims and Non-Muslims 284